

Amendment No. 2 to SB0560

**Burks
Signature of Sponsor**

AMEND Senate Bill No. 560

House Bill No. 381*

FILED

Date _____

Time _____

Clerk _____

Comm. Amdt. _____

by adding the following language immediately preceding the enacting clause:

WHEREAS, Tennessee's animal agriculture receipts for cattle, swine, poultry, and equine totaled 1.5 billion dollars in 2003; and

WHEREAS, the total assets of equine operations in Tennessee constitute another 6.09 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, this state and nation are facing a shortage of veterinarians who provide services to livestock owners; and

WHEREAS, over 70% of emerging infectious diseases and over 80% of biothreat agents can be passed from animals to humans; and

WHEREAS, increasing demands of bioterrorism preparedness will require additional veterinarians; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical shortage of veterinarians to serve certain communities in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, this critical shortage of veterinarians is particularly acute in rural communities throughout Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous factors that contribute to the shortage of veterinarians who provide services to livestock owners, which suggests that the solution to this problem should be multifaceted, including, but not limited to the selection and training of veterinary medical students; and

WHEREAS, the educational debt load carried by new veterinarians coupled with the cost of establishing and maintaining a private practice exceeds the ability of certain communities to financially support such a veterinarian; and

WHEREAS, this matter adversely affects the entire state of Tennessee, now, therefore,

AND FURTHER AMEND by deleting all language after the enacting clause and by substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. There is hereby created a special joint committee to study how to eliminate the shortage of veterinarians in Tennessee communities.

SECTION 2. In the course of its deliberations, the special joint committee shall also study the standards and system for the issuance of premises permits to veterinary facilities.

SECTION 3. The special joint committee shall consist of three (3) members of the House of Representatives and three (3) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers. The Committee shall also include a representative from the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, the Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association and the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, each of whom shall be selected by his or her respective organization and shall serve in an ex-officio, non-voting capacity. An additional veterinarian, currently licensed in Tennessee, shall be appointed by the Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association. Such veterinarian shall practice in an underserved area of the state with a livestock focus. Such veterinarian shall also serve in an ex-officio, non-voting capacity.

SECTION 4. All appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

SECTION 5. All legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

SECTION 6. The special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect from among its legislative membership a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

SECTION 7. The special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred Fourth

General Assembly no later than February 1, 2006, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.